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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Section VII of the Forschungsanstalt fuer Schiffahrt, Gewässer und Bodenkunde (Institute for Nautical Science, Hydrology and Geology) at 6 Rodelbergweg, Berlin-Hermsdorf, [redacted] prepared a report and proposals regarding the DDR shipbuilding program in answer to a request by the Directorate General, Shipping in Berlin.

The report reviews the existing plans for the construction of seagoing ships of types [redacted] through IV arriving at the conclusion that these plans are not feasible and discusses alternate plans. The report also contains the proposed draft of a contract according to which the Mathias Thesen Shipyard in Wismar, a former repair yard, is to build four merchant ships of type I for the Directorate General, Shipping.

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[redacted] Comments. In a very guarded way, the report by the Institute of Nautical Science, Hydrology and Geology indicates that, in regard to shipbuilding, the authorities responsible for the DDR Five-Year Plan have proved incompetent. This is also indicated by the fact that 18 months after the start of the Five-Year Plan, even the most basic points of the shipbuilding program for merchant ships are still unsettled. For example, the number of ships of the various types is a subject of controversy. The strong emphasis the report places on the political importance of the China trade as the principal reason for building large merchant ships is to be noted.

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